

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2004, in which the Examiner indicated that claims 5-7, 15, 16, and 20 are allowable, objected to claim 14, and continued the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 13 and 19 as obvious in view of US 4,174,629 to *Striegler* in combination with US 6,423,802 to *Miller* et al.; the rejection of claims 3 and 12 as obvious in view of the combination of *Striegler* and *Miller* with an article by Thomas; the rejection of claims 8 and 17 as obvious in view of the combination of *Striegler* and *Miller* with *Clapperton* et al; and the rejection of claims 9 and 18 as obvious in view of the combination of *Striegler* and *Miller* with *Collee* et al..

Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully submit that the case is now in condition for allowance.

Allowable claims

In response to the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16 and 20 are allowable, claims 2-4 and 8-10 have been amended to depend from claim 5 and claims 12-13 and 17-19 have been amended to depend from claim 7. Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled.

Claim 15 has been amended to make it more consistent with claim 7, from which it depends.

New claims 21 and 22

Applicants submit herewith a new claim 21, which is identical in scope to allowable claim 7, except that the recitation requiring that the cesium concentration in the coring fluid be "at least 25 ppm" has been replaced with a recitation requiring that the cesium concentration in the coring fluid be "at least 25 ppb." Support for this recitation can be found in the application and claims as filed. Specifically, in paragraph [0025] of the specification, applicants state, "Because the sample is preferably diluted by a factor of 300 prior to processing, however, the effective lower limit of detection is approximately 25 ppb." (emphasis added).

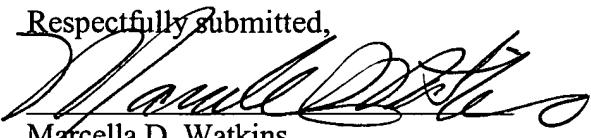
Similarly, new claim 22 is identical in scope to allowable claim 7, except that it requires that the cesium concentration in the coring fluid be "at least 2.5 ppm." Support for this recitation is also found in paragraph [0025] of the specification, which reads, "If a desired minimum level of detectable infiltration is set at 1 percent, for example, the lower limit of concentration in the coring fluid increases to 2500 ppb, or 2.5 ppm. Put another way, it would be necessary to provide a cesium concentration of at least 2.5 ppm in the coring fluid in order to ensure detectability of the tracer in a sample of core fluid containing 1 percent infiltrated coring fluid." (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21 and 22 recite subject matter that has already been allowed and do not require further searching.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments and allow the case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



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